

REMARKS

Claims 5, 13-26 and 36-38 have been canceled without prejudice. Consideration of the application is respectfully requested.

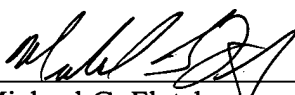
If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

General Authorization for Extensions of Time

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, Applicants hereby provide a general authorization to treat this and any future reply requiring an extension of time as incorporating a request therefor. Furthermore, Applicants authorize the Commissioner to charge the appropriate fee for any extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-3092; Order No. MCRO:017--7/FLE (94-0358.07).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 18, 2004



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